



WELCOME TO THE SAFE Newsletter

FEBRUARY 5, 2024



February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

February 1st marked the beginning of National Teen Dating Violence and Prevention Awareness Month (TDVAM) across the U.S. and SAFE is proud to be participating once again this year. SAFE will be presenting talks on healthy relationships and consent

to some local high school health classes, an effort that has been a part of our Community Programs office for many years now. McKenna Mertes, in her new role as SAFE's Community Programs and Prevention Coordinator, is spearheading this year's TDVAM activities. In addition to presenting directly to teens in schools, SAFE is also hosting an Instagram Photo Contest for teens, encouraging them to post photos that represent the theme of Healthy Relationships. SAFE is also displaying a TDVAM Affirmations Board at a variety of local businesses throughout the month, featuring facts about teen dating violence and healthy relationships. Customers and members of the public are encouraged to write down affirmations and advice on healthy relationships for teens on sticky notes and adhere them to the board. SAFE's social media accounts will be active this month with highlighting facts and resources in honor of TDVAM, as well. For more information about any of these activities, visit SAFE's Facebook or Instagram pages!

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH

- 1.5 MILLION HIGH SCHOOLERS** experience physical abuse from a dating partner in the U.S each year
- 2 OUT OF 3 TEENS** in an abusive relationship never tell anyone about the abuse
- 4 OUT OF 5 GIRLS** who have been physically abused continue to date their abuser
- 60% OF TEENS** know a victim of dating violence or sexual assault
- 1 IN 3 TEENS** will experience dating violence
- 82% OF PARENTS** are confident that they could recognize the signs of dating violence
- ONLY 42% OF PARENTS** can properly identify all of the signs
- 46% OF THEM** said they did not intervene
- 40% OF THEM** said they wouldn't know what to do if they witnessed it
- 72% OF 8TH & 9TH GRADERS** are in what they call a "dating relationship"

Construction Updates

A MESSAGE FROM MAINTENANCE MARK

Great progress has been made since the last update! One the south side addition, all of the walls have gone up and have been sheeted, interior walls have been built, the new roof has been tied into the existing roof and the entire roof has been prepared for shingles. Right now the focus is to completely seal in the south side addition by completing the roof and installing the windows, which should be arriving this week. Once that is complete, the contract workers will be able to cut the new doorways through the existing wall into the old playroom area. At the same time, other contractors have been installing new plumbing and electrical where needed. Interior demolition is also ongoing, as much of the old floor plan is now obsolete and new plans are implemented.

–Mark Warner, SAFE Facilities Maintenance



Call for SAFE Spring Fundraiser Volunteers!

THIS YEAR'S THEME WILL BE BIGGER, BETTER AND PINKER THAN EVER!

SAFE's Spring Fundraiser is coming up on **Saturday, May 11, 2024**, and our planning committee has begun preparing for what promises to be another fun-filled, mission-driven, successful evening raising money and awareness for SAFE's programming. While we aren't quite ready to publicly announce our theme and all of the details, SAFE is reaching out to the local community for volunteers interested in helping out with a variety of aspects of the event, from helping make decorations and entering silent auction data, to volunteering at the event. We may not be able to use ALL of you, but we would love to hear from anyone who is interested. For more information and sign up, click the link below!

[FILL OUT A VOLUNTEER INTEREST FORM HERE](#)

SAFE 2024 Sponsorship Program

LOCAL BUSINESSES & INDIVIDUALS ASKED FOR SUPPORT

Beginning last month, SAFE opened up our 2024 Sponsorship Program to businesses and individuals who are interested in supporting SAFE at a significant level for the year. This year's sponsorships will help meet SAFE's organizational goals, including diversifying our income sources, completing our Building Expansion Project, increasing our operating budget and increasing community outreach efforts. While sponsorships last throughout the entire calendar year, sponsors who commit ahead of SAFE's Spring Fundraiser in May will gain exposure starting at that event. Sponsorship Levels start at \$750 and include a variety of benefits at each level.

For more information, visit our website at the link below!

[2024 SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM](#)

SAFE Event Calendar

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING DATES
stay tuned for more details

FEBRUARY

Teen Dating
Violence Awareness
Month
21st @ 7pm:
'Holding Fire' author
reading &
presentation
benefitting SAFE

APRIL

1st- Last day to
confirm 2024 SAFE
Sponsorship for
inclusion in Spring
Fundraiser
benefits!

MAY 11, 2024

**DATE
CHANGE!**

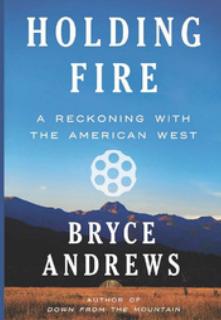
SAFE Spring
Fundraiser

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

Farm to
Table
Gathering

BRYCE ANDREWS

Author of Badluck Way and Down
From the Mountain



PRESENTATION AND READING TO BENEFIT
S.A.F.E.
7PM FEBRUARY 21
RAVALLI COUNTY MUSEUM
20% OF BOOK SALES WILL GO TO S.A.F.E.



"A powerful meditation on a rural life of hunting in a world of guns—some of them used for sinister purposes... A welcome, eminently sensible contribution to the literature of the American West—and responsible gun ownership." — Kirkus Reviews



creating a future
free from violence

ANNUAL SPONSORSHIP PROPOSAL 2024

supporters of
abuse-free
environments

www.safeinthebitterroot.org

Come work with us today!

As we have experienced some internal shifting within our organization and received word about receiving additional funding for our Community Programs office, SAFE is still hiring for a couple of positions, listed to the right.

Advocate

PART-TIME: 20 HOURS PER WEEK

[OPEN ROLES](#)

@safe_in_the_bitterroot | safe@safeinthebitterroot.org

WWW.SAFEINTHEBITTERROOT.ORG